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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Kernan DATE TYPED 2/15/05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Research Fund SB 483

ANALYST Taylor

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
\$11.0	\$22.0			Recurring	UNM Regents

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE

Estimated Revenue		Subsequent Years Impact	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06			
\$11.0	\$22.0	Similar	Recurring	UNM Regents

(Parenthesis () Indicate Revenue Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
 Taxation and Revenue Department
 Department of Health

SUMMARY

Senate Bill 483 creates an optional tax refund contribution for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) research (see substantive issue section for a description of ALS). Taxpayers are allowed to contribute any portion of their New Mexico state income tax refund to a new fund created in the state treasury for this purpose. Money in the fund is appropriated to the University Of New Mexico Board of Regents for ALS research.

Provisions of the bill are applicable as of January 1, 2005.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The Taxation and Revenue Department estimates that this fund would raise approximately \$22 thousand on a full-year basis. The estimate is simply the average of tax year 2003 contributions to existing voluntary contribution funds. The FY05 impact is half the full-year impact and relates to the applicability date.

The estimated money raised from voluntary contributions are appropriated to the UNM Board of Regents. Of course, this may vary depending on taxpayers response.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

TRD reports that it would not need any additional resources to administer the provisions of the bill.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

The Department of Health submitted a bill analysis that included the following description of disease and where more information can be obtained.

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also called Lou Gehrig's disease, is a progressive, fatal neurological disease affecting as many as 20,000 Americans with 5,000 new cases occurring in the United States each year. The disorder belongs to a class of disorders known as motor neuron diseases. ALS occurs when specific nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control voluntary movement gradually degenerate. The loss of these motor neurons causes the muscles under their control to weaken and waste away, leading to paralysis. ALS manifests itself in different ways, depending on which muscles weaken first. Symptoms may include tripping and falling, loss of motor control in hands and arms, difficulty speaking, swallowing and/or breathing, persistent fatigue, and twitching and cramping, sometimes quite severely.

ALS strikes in mid-life. Men are about one-and-a-half times more likely to have the disease as women. ALS is usually fatal within five years after diagnosis. The goals of ALS research are to find the cause or causes of ALS, understand the mechanisms involved in the progression of the disease, and develop effective treatment. (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis Fact Sheet developed by National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, accessed at:

http://www.ninds.nih.gov/disorders/amyotrophiclateralsclerosis/detail_amyotrophiclateralsclerosis.htm).

The Taxation and Revenue Department's FIR included this report on refund donations:

As indicated below, less than 10,000 (1.2%) of New Mexico's personal income tax returns contain refund donations. Refund contributions to all check-off programs totaled less than \$100,000 in tax year 2003.

Illustration

New Mexico Personal Income Tax, 2003 Tax Year, Schedule D (Donations) Data by Filing Status

Data Category and line on form ()	Filing Status				Total
	Joint	Single	HoH	Separate	
Share With Wildlife Contributions (2)	16,186	17,659	3,650	358	37,853
Number of Returns	721	956	215	9	1,901
Veterans Cemetery Fund (3)	9,370	7,243	2,955	148	19,716
Number of Returns	484	468	166	5	1,123
Substance Abuse Fund (4)	5,422	5,029	2,551	38	13,040
Number of Returns	344	408	175	5	932
Forest Re-Leaf (5)	8,220	7,991	1,283	38	17,532
Number of Returns	458	628	119	5	1,210
Political Parties Contribution (6)	5,176	2,600	768	58	8,602
Number of Returns (6a &b)	1,382	1,300	384	29	3,095
Primary Party Democrat	687	742	251	15	1,695
Primary Party Republican	571	324	89	13	997
Primary Party Natural Law	14	37	1	0	52
Primary Party Green	9	21	21	0	51
Spouse Party Democrat	651	0	0	0	651
Spouse Party Republican	521	0	0	0	521
Spouse Party Natural Law	8	0	0	0	8
Spouse Party Green	54	0	0	0	54
Total Contributions (7)	44,374	40,522	11,207	640	96,743
Number of Returns	3,389	3,760	1,059	53	8,261

Information Source: compiled from New Mexico personal income tax returns -- 2003 tax year.

Notes: (1) Figures in parenthesis in Column 1 refer to line on D Form.

(2) Return counts reflect the number of returns where the associated variable, e.g., tax withheld, exceeds zero.

BT/sb